



JUN 18 2013

2013-330

Ms. Joni Swidnicki, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
City of Regina
Box 1790
REGINA SK S4P 3C8

Dear Ms. Swidnicki:

Thank you for your letter dated June 13, 2013, requesting authorization to use Saskatchewan Health's 2012 Covered Population Report to determine the population of the City of Regina for the purposes of validating a pending petition for a referendum.

I do not authorize the use of alternative population data for this purpose. As such, in accordance with clause 2(1)(y) of *The Cities Act*, the population of the City for this purpose is to be in accordance with the latest census taken pursuant to the Statistics Act (Canada), namely the 2011 Census. As noted in your letter, the 2011 Census indicates a population for the City of Regina of 193,100.

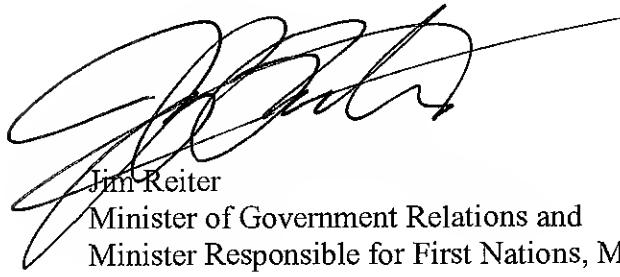
Census data is the standard measure established under municipal legislation for determining population for various matters, including funding such as municipal revenue sharing. The population figure used for the City of Regina's revenue sharing is 193,100.

Your letter correctly notes that in early 2011, the then-Minister of Municipal Affairs authorized the Chairperson of Regina's Municipal Wards Commission to use 2010 Saskatchewan Health population data in reviewing and altering the city's ward boundaries in advance of the 2012 general municipal elections. This was a different situation. At that time, the latest census population figures were from 2006. More current data was needed to find the right balance of population in each ward. As well, the process of reviewing ward boundaries is objective and independent from city council and administration with requirements for public hearings and public notice regarding any potential changes to wards and ward boundaries.

It has always been our government's position to not intervene in matters of a purely local nature, thereby preserving municipal government autonomy and allowing democratic processes to occur. Authorizing the use of alternative, higher population figures for the purposes of validating a petition might unfairly impact the sufficiency of the petition, and I believe would not be a proper exercise of my discretion.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Reiter".

Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations and
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs